



P R E S S R E L E A S E

City of St. Joseph Health Department
904 South 10th Street, St. Joseph, MO 64503

Media inquiries contact Connie Werner at 816-271-4725

November 23, 2020

CITY OF ST. JOSEPH HEALTH DEPARTMENT FINALIZING VACCINE DISTRIBUTION PLAN FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE WORKERS

The City of St. Joseph Health Department has received multiple communications from the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) regarding vaccine distribution in our community, which are based on regulations set forth by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Early protection of health care personnel, identified as Tier 1A by CDC, is critical to preserve capacity to care for patients with COVID-19 or other illnesses. Per CDC, *Tier 1A includes "paid and unpaid people serving in health care settings who have the potential for direct or indirect exposure to patients or infectious materials and are unable to work from home."* The health department is currently working to finalize a vaccine distribution plan that will include Tier 1A medical providers wishing to protect staff with the COVID-19 vaccine who are not part of a health care system with their own vaccine allotment or receiving vaccine through another COVID vaccine provider.

Tier 1A health-care providers must make a declaration of interest to the City of St. Joseph Health Department in order to be included in the request the health department submits to DHSS. An online tool has been created; we ask qualifying

Tier 1A providers to respond here,

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/COVIDVacClinic>. Tier 1A includes dental providers, optometrists and ophthalmologists, home health and hospice agencies, mental health providers, physical therapy providers, chiropractors, and others that require “patient facing” medical services. RESPOND TO THE SURVEY NO LATER THAN THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2020.

A statement of interest is mandatory but does not guarantee vaccine from the City of St. Joseph Health Department. Vaccine allocated by the health department will be distributed based on how providers are prioritized as outlined in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Tier 1A placement, as well as vaccine quantity and shelf-life. Providers who qualify for Tier 1A distribution and who inform the health department of interest in receiving vaccine for patient facing staff will be contacted by the health department with additional information once vaccination administration plans have been finalized. At this time, DHSS has stated that demand for vaccine is outpacing supply and they cannot predict when the City of St. Joseph Health Department will receive vaccine.

The City of St. Joseph Health Department is just one of several COVID-19 vaccine providers in the community. Several pharmacies and medical offices currently are or are working toward becoming COVID vaccine providers and are developing their own protocol for vaccine distribution. All COVID-19 vaccine sources should be considered by Tier 1A vaccine recipients.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.
